Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 09 Mar 2022 until 23:59 on Thursday 10 Mar 2022

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 08 Mar 2022 at 12:55

Confidence: High for relatively unsettled pattern, but lowering confidence for the detail of the worst conditions.

Headline for Wednesday 09 Mar 2022: Dry, occasionally bright start. Area of rain spreading from west from late afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 09 Mar 2022

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Dull	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability							
00%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	20%	80%	80%

Forecast for Wednesday 09 Mar 2022

Weather: Mainly dry overnight and for much of the day with some clear then brighter spells breaking through the quite extensive veil of higher cloud. Cloud thickening to spread periods of occasionally heavy rain from the west late afternoon and early evening, which turns lighter late evening and more patchy overnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% at first becoming 10% or less from late afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Good or very good, becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in cloud with bases occasionally lowering 600-800m for much of the day, becoming widespread in later rain, with patches lower down.

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Forecast for Wednesday 09 Mar 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	32/41 S	36/46 S	42/54 S	46/60 S	44/59 S	42/56 S	42/55 S	38/49 S	35/46 S
600	29/41 S	31/43 S	35/49 S	39/55 S	39/55 S	35/50 S	33/48 S	29/41 S	27/39 S
300	13/32 S	13/33 S	15/38 S	18/44 S	19/46 S	16/41 S	15/39 S	11/32 S	12/31 S
Valley	11/27 S	12/27 S	15/34 SE	16/36 S	18/38 S	16/35 S	11/29 S	10/27 SE	10/25 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-7	0/-8	0/-9	0/-9	2/-7	3/-5	2/-5	2/-5	2/-5
600	2/-4	2/-5	2/-6	2/-6	4/-3	5/-1	4/-2	4/-2	4/-2
300	4/0	4/-0	4/-1	5/-0	7/2	8/4	6/3	6/3	6/3
Valley	6/3	6/2	6/2	7/3	9/6	10/6	8/5	7/4	7/4
Freezing Level*	900m	900m	900m	1000m	1100m	1200m	1400m	1500m	1700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Winds gusting to 60-65mph at times across most exposed ridges and summit, bringing significant wind chill.

Forecast for Thursday 10 Mar 2022

Weather: Rather cloudy start with occasional rain and drizzle. Dry and occasionally bright conditions erratically feeding from the southwest for the afternoon.

Maximum wind: South mean 30mph with gusts reaching 45mph across most exposed ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% or less becoming 70% later

Low cloud and visibility: Moderate or poor in rain and drizzle, very poor in cloud with bases widespread above 600-800m at first, occasionally so later.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Zero Celsius increasing plus 14 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Above summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 8 March 2022, Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20. Full report: There is quite a contrast at present between the Spring-like valleys and the winter conditions that exist above the snowline of 700m. Above 700m the snow depth rises with height although the actual coverage encountered varies considerably from little or nothing on windswept or sunny, predominantly south facing aspects, to deep drifts of over 50cm – although such depth is the exception. The greatest snow cover and deepest drifts are to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on north and especially east facing aspects. A particular hazard on paths today was the amount of ice and compacted, hard icy snow on popular routes. This combined with the strength of the wind, made conditions treacherous. Walking poles combined with microspikes are advisable to help stay upright. Cornices exist over some north and east facing slopes. Although they are very small there are steep drops beneath them so it is best to keep well clear of such edges especially given the forecasted milder temperatures when the snow will soften and weaken.

With a daytime summit temperature below zero and the windchill (what the temperature feels like) well below at minus 11 degrees, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass (and the ability to use them) are all essential for anyone going out onto the high fells. For those going above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep, exposed ground – such as the exits to both Striding and Swirral Edges which both have banks of steep, deep, hard snow guarding their exits – an ice axe and crampons are also essential. Please do not be lulled into a false sense of security by the fact that the crest of Striding Edge is mostly bare, dry rock. The unavoidable snow is located where a slip or slide without the means to stop yourself could have serious consequences. For those interested in the weather stats, the wind was significantly higher on the way up and on the descent. Temperature: minus 0.9 C, Maximum wind speed 39 mph, Wind chill: minus 11.3 C, Average wind speed: 27.8 mph

Issued at: 1255 on Tue 08 Mar 2022

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